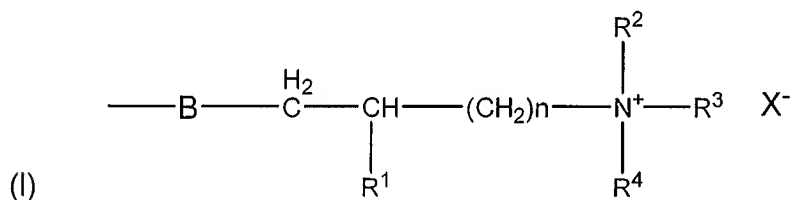


## Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims shall replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the instant Application.

1. (Previously Presented) A paper comprising a filler content of above 20 wt% based on the total weight of the paper and a cellulose ether having a DS of quaternary ammonium groups of between 0.01 and 0.7, a DS of carboxymethyl groups of between 0.05 and 1.0, and a net charge in the range of from -0.7 to -0.04, with the proviso that the cellulose ether is not a hydroxyethyl cellulose and wherein the cellulose ether is soluble in water.

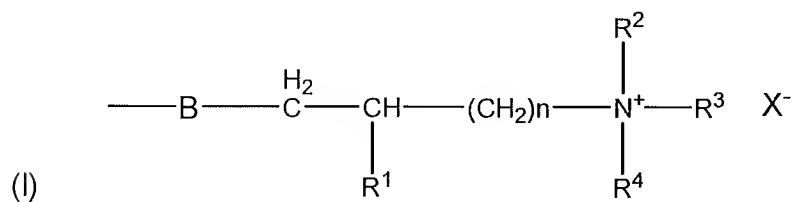
2. (Previously Presented) The paper according to claim 1 wherein the quaternary ammonium group is represented by the formula:



wherein  $\text{R}^1$  is H or OH,  $\text{R}^2$ ,  $\text{R}^3$ , and  $\text{R}^4$  are the same or different and are selected from  $\text{C}_1\text{--C}_{24}$  alkyl,  $\text{C}_6\text{--C}_{24}$  aryl,  $\text{C}_7\text{--C}_{24}$  aralkyl,  $\text{C}_7\text{--C}_{24}$  alkaryl,  $\text{C}_3\text{--C}_{24}$  cycloalkyl,  $\text{C}_2\text{--C}_{24}$  alkoxyalkyl, and  $\text{C}_7\text{--C}_{24}$  alkoxyaryl groups, or  $\text{R}^2$ ,  $\text{R}^3$ ,  $\text{R}^4$ , and the quaternary nitrogen atom form an aliphatic or aromatic heterocyclic ring;  $n$  is an integer of 1 to 4, B is attached to the backbone of the cellulose ether and selected from O,  $\text{OC(O)}$ ,  $\text{C(O)O}$ ,  $\text{C(O)-NH}$ ,  $\text{NHC(O)}$ , S,  $\text{OSO}_3$ ,  $\text{OPO}_3$ , NH, or  $\text{NR}^5$ , wherein  $\text{R}^5$  is a  $\text{C}_2\text{--C}_6$  acyl or a  $\text{C}_1\text{--C}_4$  alkyl radical, and  $\text{X}^-$  is an anion.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)
5. (Canceled)
6. (Canceled)
7. (Canceled)
8. (Canceled)
9. (Canceled)
10. (Canceled)
11. (Canceled)
12. (Previously Presented) A method of making paper comprising:  
 adding the cellulose ether of claim 1 to an aqueous paper stock  
 adding a filler to said stock;  
 removing water from said stock; and  
 drying said stock;  
 wherein the paper has a filler content above 20 wt% based on the total weight of  
 the paper.
13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12 wherein said quaternary  
 ammonium groups are represented by the formula:



wherein  $R^1$  is H or OH,  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ , and  $R^4$  are the same or different and are selected from  $C_1$ - $C_{24}$  alkyl,  $C_6$ - $C_{24}$  aryl,  $C_7$ - $C_{24}$  aralkyl,  $C_7$ - $C_{24}$  alkaryl,  $C_3$ - $C_{24}$  cycloalkyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{24}$  alkoxyalkyl, and  $C_7$ - $C_{24}$  alkoxyaryl groups, or  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$ , and the quaternary nitrogen atom form an aliphatic or aromatic heterocyclic ring; n is an integer of 1 to 4, B is attached to the backbone of the cellulose ether and selected from O, OC(O), C(O)O, C(O)-NH, NHC(O), S, OSO<sub>3</sub>, OPO<sub>3</sub>, NH, or NR<sup>5</sup>, wherein R<sup>5</sup> is a  $C_2$ - $C_6$  acyl or a  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl radical, and X<sup>-</sup> is an anion.

14. (Previously Presented) The paper according to claim 1 wherein the paper has a filler content about 25 wt% based on the total weight of the paper.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12 wherein the paper has a filler content above 25 wt% based on the total weight of the paper.